

XV. *Descriptions of new or little known forms of Diurnal Lepidoptera.* By ARTHUR G. BUTLER, F.L.S., &c.

[Read 3rd May, 1869.]

ARGYNNIS AGLAIA, Linn., aberr. (Pl. V. figs. 2, 3.)

♀. Differt supra a formâ communi maculis externis alarum anticarum obsoletis, venis ad marginem externum nigro-dilatatis, disco et area basali posticarum nigris, annulis autem quatuor discalibus margine externo subparallelis fulvis; margine externo late fulvo, immaculato, a venis nigro-dilatatis disrupto. Subtus characteribus basalibus anticarum confusis nigro innatis, punctis sex discalibus transversis serie undata, area apicali flavido-olivacea ad angulum ani fulvescente, striis duabus apud apicem argenteis; posticis olivaceis, area basali omnino argentea, a venis olivaceis interrupta, maculis discalibus partim obscuratis, plagis septem magnis a venis separatis argenteis diffusis, margine externo pallido, immaculato.

Hab.—Helvetia (Chamouny). Coll. mihi.

This very interesting specimen was exhibited at a recent meeting of the Entomological Society (Proc. Ent. Soc. 1869, p. viii); Mr. McLachlan informs me that the same form exists in the collection of Mr. Bond, but as it seems never to have been described or figured, it is high time that some notice should be taken of it. I caught the insect on a slope facing the Mt. Blanc range, where it was flying about in company with male specimens of *Aglaiia* and *Niobe*; these two forms are constantly together, vary into one another, chase one another about, and show every sign of being one and the same species.

CHARAXES ETESIPE, Godart. (Pl. V. figs. 5, 6, ♂.)

♂ *Nymphalis Etheta*, Godart, Enc. Méth. ix. p. 356 (1819); Griffith's An. Kingd. Ins. Lep. pl. 2, fig. 4.

♀ *Papilio Etheocles*, Drury (*nec* Fabr.) Ill. 3, pl. 10 (1800).

♀ *Nymphalis Etesipe*, Godart, Enc. Méth. ix. p. 355 (1819).

Hab.—Sierra Leone. ♂, Coll. Swanzy.

The sexes of this species have hitherto been kept separate, probably on account of the rarity of the insect, and the exceedingly poor figure of the male in Guérin's Iconographie (copied in Griffith's Animal Kingdom); in this figure, the tails are much too stout and clumsy, the entire build of the insect is incorrect, the colouring underdone, and only the uppersurface is represented; a moderately fine example lately received by Mr. Swanzy from Sierra Leone, has given me an opportunity of correcting this error.

Godart describes *Etheta* as follows:—

“Nym. alis suprâ atro-cæruleis, dimidio apicali cærulescenti-maculatis: subtus albis, nigro ferrugineoque marmoratis.

“It differs from *Etesipe* in that it is smaller, and the uppersurface of the wings exhibits towards the margin two transverse rows of pale blue spots; the hind-wings, moreover, in that the white discoidal band is altogether wanting; only the uppersurface of the front wings is marked with some white spots between the disc and the centre of the costa. From the West Coast of Africa.

“N.B. Might not this be the male of *Etesipe*?”

The natural position of *Etesipe* is evidently between *C. Jocaste*,* Butler, and *C. Tiridates*, Fabricius, the under-surface being most like the former, the uppersurface more closely resembling the latter species.

APATURA ZALMUNNA, sp. nov. (Pl. V. fig. 4.)

♂. Alæ supra nigro-fuscæ, striolis nonnullis anticarum discoidalibus inconspicuis pallidis, punctis tribus albidis subapicalibus serie angulata positis, striolaque submarginali in alis ambabus pallide brunnea; corpus nigro-fuscum. Subtus, alæ anticæ area basali fulva, apicali nigro-fusca; apice plaga squamosa glaucescente; macula discoidea, altera striolari pone cellam, maculisque discalibus duodecim hic illuc positis, albidis; posticæ glaucescentes, lineis tribus obscurioribus et albo fulvoque variæ; corpus luteo-albidum. Exp. alar. unc. $2\frac{3}{16}$.

Hab.—Brazilia. Brit. Mus.

Presented to the Collection by General Hardwicke.

* Felder's *C. Achæmenes* is the male of *C. Jocaste*; my sectional description taken in connection with the locality, sufficiently characterized the insect, so that Felder's name must sink into a synonym.

PAPILIO MEROPE, Cramer. (Pl. V. fig. 1.)

♀ *P. Cenea*, var., Stoll, Suppl. Cramer, pl. 29, figs. 1, 1a (1779).

Hab.—Graham's Town. Coll. Higgins.

This variety, kindly lent to me by Mr. Higgins, is chiefly interesting as being a connecting link between the two forms of *P. Cenea* figured in Mr. Trimen's paper, lately published in the Transactions of the Linnean Society (vol. xxvi, p. 497, pl. 43, figs. 3, 4); it also to a certain extent explains the modification of *Cenea* into *Hippocoon* (which is apparently one of the most difficult colour transitions accomplished by this species) inasmuch as it is almost intermediate between *Cenea* and the variety of *Hippocoon*, represented at fig. 2 of Mr. Trimen's plate, the pattern, but not the colouring, of the hindwings being the same with that of the latter form.

I cannot quite agree with all Mr. Trimen's conclusions respecting *P. Merope*, for it seems to me, that though we have every evidence that all the forms of this type now existing have been modified from one original species, until we can show a series of transitional varieties uniting them all together, we shall be obliged to consider some of them at least as distinct local species; the Western form indeed is so different even in the male sex from its Southern representative, that it can be at once distinguished; the same sex also differs a little from less distant localities, although not at all to the same extent that the female does, yet, since amount of difference does not constitute a species, the slightest constant character is of importance.

The forms of the *Merope* group in the Collection of the British Museum are as under—

(1). *Papilio Merope*.(a.) *Cenea*.

♂. Alæ anticæ macula subapicali elongata velut in feminâ, margine externo distinctè undato; margine costali nigro paululum in cellam errante: posticæ cauda partim nigra; subtus fundo basali albido, apicali ochreo.

♀ *Cenea*, Stoll, Suppl. Cramer, pl. 29, fig. 1 (1791).

♂, ♀, Zoolu Country. Presented by G. F. Angas, Esq., and Sir Andrew Smith.

(a. a.) *Cenea*, var.

♂ *Alæ anticæ* margine externo dentato-sinuato, macula subapicali minore; *posticæ* fascia lata discali nigra aliquando interrupta; subtus fundo obscuriore ochraceo.

♀ *Cenea*, var., maculis anticarum albis. Trimen in Trans. Linn. Soc. xxvi. tab. 43, fig. 4 (1869).

♂, ♀, Port Natal. Obtained 1858. Collected by Mr. Gueinzus.

(b.) *Merope* (true).

♂ *Merope*, Cramer, Pap. Exot. ii. pl. 151, figs. A, B (1779).

♀ *Trophonius*, Westwood, Arcana Entom. pl. 39, figs. 1, 2.

♂ Knysna. Presented 1859, by R. Trimen, Esq.; ♀ from Mr. Milne's Collection.

The typical *Merope*, excepting in form, is on the upper-surface much like the male of *Meriones*, but the tails of the hind-wings are uniformly of a pale ochre colour; the undersurface of the hind-wings is also paler than in the other Southern males.

(2). *Papilio Brutus*.(a.) *Brutus*.

♂ *Brutus*, Fabricius, Sp. Ins. p. 13 (1781).

♀ *Hippocoon*, Fabricius, Ent. Syst. iii. p. 38 (1793).

Sierra Leone. ♂ presented by the Rev. D. F. Morgan; ♀ collected 1858, by Mr. James Foxcroft.

The male of this form, which agrees with the *Sulfureus* (*sic*) of Palisot de Beauvois, differs from Cramer's *Merope* in its greater length of wing, and the very pale colouring of the undersurface of the hind-wings.

(b.) *Niavius*.

♂ *Bruto* similis at major, margine quoque anticarum externo multo latiore.

♀ *Niavius*, Cram. Pap. Exot. iii. pl. 234, fig. A (1782).

Ashanti. ♂ from Mr. Stothard's collection; ♀ obtained 1844, from the collection of the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

This is also the *Niavius* of Palisot de Beauvois; it may be at once distinguished from *Hippocoon* by its much greater size, and more elongate wings; the Ashanti forms of *Danaïs Niavius* and of *Diadema Anthedon* differ from the Sierra Leone forms in the same particulars.